



THE IPSWICH & EAST SUFFOLK BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

First Founded 1880, A Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1183025

2022 An Introduction to Beekeeping

"The best introductory beekeeping course in Suffolk!"

Begins on 28th February 2022

The aim of the course is to allow those with no previous knowledge or experience to start keeping bees. **This is a very short course so, if you take it and wish to keep bees successfully, you can't afford to miss a single session.** To underpin the instruction, within reasonable limits, we offer advice and assistance afterwards.

Since most of the course will take place before bee colonies can safely be opened, it is important that you make arrangements to look into a colony of honey bees in the season before the course starts; if it isn't already too late when you read this, we can help; please ask. I cannot emphasise too strongly that there is no substitute for opening an active colony with an experienced beekeeper. You might try being stung too!

This year the course will run on five consecutive Monday evenings from 28th February between 7.30 and 9.30pm. This is the classroom, theoretical, part and will be held mostly in the Dallinghoo Jubilee Hall. The dates and brief details are listed in the course calendar which should accompany this. Sessions include an afternoon handling lovely quiet bees on 2nd or 3rd April - you choose which - and a grand final all-day session from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday 24^h April. **While these dates are currently provisional**, please put them in your diary!

The fee for our Course is £60.00. For a second person at the same address, we offer the course at half price but we give you only one set of notes. If you are keen to take the course but can't afford the fee, please ask - waivers and reductions are possible.

The handouts provided will not cover all you need to know. While you may borrow books from either public libraries and/or this Association's, you will need one of your own to refer to when uncertain what to do. **At least one general book on beekeeping is essential - start reading and absorbing this as soon as possible.** Two books are better than one as each will have a different viewpoint. We recommend:

- BBKA's *Guide to Beekeeping (2nd Edition)*
- Clive de Bruyn's "*Practical Beekeeping*"
- "*Guide to Bees & Honey*" by Ted Hooper
- Haynes "*Bee Manual*" by A & C Waring
- *Get started in beekeeping* by Adrian and Claire Waring

- *Bee Keeping - A Novice's Guide (2nd Edition)* by David Wootton.
- "*Bees at the Bottom of the Garden*" by Alan Campion
- "*Beekeeping: A Seasonal Guide*" by Ron Brown.

We suggest you buy yours from **Northern Bee Books**, Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge HX7 5JS; [Northern Bee Books](http://www.northernbeebooks.co.uk). You will also need a notepad; A4 is suggested since this is the size of the handouts. We also have some good introductory DVDs and videos in the Library; please borrow them.

If you are thinking seriously about taking our course, please do not wait until nearer the day but get in touch now; places are limited. A few years ago we were fully booked six months in advance; in 2019 we had to refuse some late applicants.

Jeremy has been keeping bees since 1985 and is a BBKA Master Beekeeper, currently one of only three in Suffolk. James is a Genetics graduate (BSc Hons, Leeds), a professional breeder of pigs & poultry, who is now in 13^h season keeping bees and a BBKA Qualified Beekeeper; he teaches Physics & Biology at Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham.

As far as we know, Suffolk New College (Suffolk Rural) does not currently offer an introductory beekeeping course.

Those intending to keep bees in Suffolk are strongly advised to join one of the six beekeepers' associations allied to the Suffolk BKA. Membership provides £10M third party insurance cover via the British Beekeepers' Association and a ready source of advice and help. You are most welcome to attend any Suffolk beekeepers' meeting. See: www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk.

Any beginner's course can only be the beginning of your education in the complex arts of bee husbandry – you should plan to continue to study. If you are not eager to continue to learn, we course tutors will have failed!

If you have any queries, or a disability which requires some special consideration, please contact one of the course tutors:

James Ferguson: 07484 646315; james@synaps.co.uk,
Jeremy Quinlan: 01473 737700; JeremyQ@tiscali.co.uk.

Enrollment Form for 2022

Name(s)

Address & POSTCODE

Telephone Email

- Please book me/us a place on your 2022 "An Introduction to Beekeeping" course.
- I should like to take advantage of your family half price offer for a second person; there will be two of us from the same address together on the course. **Please delete this if it does not apply.**
- I have made a transfer of £60.00/£90.00 to the Association's bank account No. 10570028, sort code 20-44-51. Or, I enclose my cheque (payable to I&ES BKA), or cash, for the sum due.
- I agree that my details may be made available to the other members of the course.
Please highlight (or put in brackets) information that you want us to withhold. Please delete this if it does not apply.

Signed Date

Please send this form to Jeremy Quinlan at: The Old Rectory, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge IP13 0LA.